

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4273

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4067

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1.)

FOR SECRETARY AND SCHAUFELLE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) XA, OTRA

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF : LAGOS 4049

1. MEA AMERICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TAYLOR (REPLACING UCHUNO, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO GUINEA) JUST TELEPHONED ME IN RESPONSE TO MY CONVERSATION (REFTTEL) WITH PERMSEC SANUSI CONCERNING SECRETARY'S VISIT. SPEAKING CAREFULLY AND EVIDENTLY FROM NOTES, TAYLOR SAID THE VISIT "WOULD UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE CONVENIENT AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF CURRENT PREOCCUPATIONS AND OTHER PRESSING ENGAGEMENTS ON PART OF CHIEF OF STATE OBASANJO AND COMMISSIONER GARBA." HE SAID FMG "VERY MUCH REGRETTED" THAT IT UNABLE TO ACCEPT VISIT AT THIS TIME SINCE IT HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH SECRETARY "ON BILATERAL ISSUES AS WELL AS MAJOR AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS." STATING THAT "WE HAVE NOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD BE HERE ONLY A VERY SHORT TIME AFTER VISITING SEVEN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES," TAYLOR SAID FMG "HOPED THAT VISIT COULD BE REARRANGED FOR ANOTHER MORE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME."

2. I SAID THAT CONVERSATIONS CONCERNING ITINERARY SCHEDULE NOW GOING ON IN OTHER AFRICAN CAPITALS AND THAT SOME REARRANGEMENT OF DATES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. I ASKED WHETHER SOME OTHER DATE  
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WITHIN THE PROPOSED TIME PERIOD MIGHT BE MORE CONVENIENT. TAYLOR

SAID "NO, THE PROPOSED DATES ARE TOO SOON."

3. I TOLD TAYLOR WE WOULD BE MUCH DISAPPOINTED IF THE PROPOSED VISIT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE. I REMINDED TAYLOR THAT GARBA HAD DISCUSSED A VISIT TO NIGERIA WITH THE SECRETARY ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. I TOLD HIM I WOULD WISH TO BE ABLE TO INFORM THE SECRETARY THAT THE DECISION ON DEFERRAL OF HIS VISIT CAME DIRECTLY FROM GARBA HIMSELF. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MEA PROVIDE ME WITH PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO CONSIDER IN EVENT OF PRESS QUERIES CONCERNING WHY NIGERIA WAS NOT INCLUDED ON THE SECRETARY'S ITINERARY. TAYLOR SAID HE WOULD CHECK THIS OUT AND CALL ME BACK.

4. COMMENT: FMG DECISION DOUBTLESS REFLECTS MANY CONSIDERATIONS (OUR ANALYSIS BY UPCOMING SEPTTEL), BUT IT IS JUST POSSIBLE FMG MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO RECONSIDER IT IF I COULD GIVE GARBA PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY INDICATING NATURE OF ANY SUBSTANTIVE POLICY ISSUES SECRETARY MIGHT WISH RAISE WITH OBASANJO AND GARBA DURING LAGOS VISIT. (SEE LAGOS 2497 IN THIS CONNECTION.) IN ORDER TO HOLD THIS POSSIBILITY OPEN, I WILL SEEK AVOID RECEIVING MEA CALL DURING NEXT SEVERAL HOURS. PLEASE CABLE YOUR WISHES ASAP.  
EASUM

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